

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONROV 00437 231657Z

62

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 DOTE-00 MC-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 L-02 DODE-00

/043 W

----- 011119

R 231555Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO USDOC WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4453

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 0437

ABIDJAN PASS RCAA WHITMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, EAIR, LI

SUBJ: AIR LIBERIA PLANS FOR NEW AIRCRAFT

REF: A) MONROVIA 0064; B) MONROVIA 7110; C) STATE 6565

1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, ACCOMPANIED BY RCAA CASABLANCA WHITMAN, CALLED ON CLEMENS OF AIR LIBERIA (HUGHES AIR WEST) JANUARY 22, TO DISCUSS AIR LIBERIA PLANS TO ACQUIRE NEW AIRCRAFT. BIGGEST POSSIBLE SALE IN OFFING IS POSSIBILITY AIR LIBERIA WILL ACQUIRE ONE, AND POSSIBLY TWO, JET AIRCRAFT IN WAKE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE OF PRESIDENTIAL GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM II (REF A). CLEMENS SAYS THIS 50-50 POSSIBILITY. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY FAVORS AIRLINE ACQUISITION OF JET, BUT HIS BROTHER, FINANCE MINISTER, OPPOSES IT. POSSIBLY DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT AS EARLY AS TOMORROW.

2. BOEING REPS WERE IN MONROVIA LAST WEEK TO MAKE PRESENTATION ON 737, AND CLEMENS CABLED MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS EARLIER IN WEEK TO REQUEST THEY COME FORWARD WITH DC-9 PROPOSAL. STILL IN RUNNING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONROV 00437 231657Z

ARE BAC-111 AND F-28. BAC TEAM HAS ALREADY MADE PRESENTATION

AND FOKKER TEAM REPORTEDLY IN AREA QTE WITH MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS UNQTE. HUGHES MANAGEMENT TEAM WOULD OF COURSE PREFER 737 BUT IN TERMS OF COST CONSIDER FINANCIAL OPERATION OF JET QTE MARGINAL UNQTE. EMBASSY CONSIDERS DECISION TO ACQUIRE JET AIRCRAFT MISPLACEMENT OF PRIORITIES BY FINANCIALLY TROUBLED GOL, BUT ANXIOUS PROMOTE US-MADE AIRCRAFT NOT ONLY BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD BE IN OUR COMMERCIAL INTEREST, BUT ALSO BECAUSE US AIRCRAFT WOULD BETTER MEET AIR LIBERIA NEEDS.

3. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ACQUIRE THREE BRITISH-MADE ISLANDERS SHORTLY (REF B). ADDITIONALLY, AIR LIBERIA INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TWO PIPER AZTECS AND TWO TWIN OTTERS IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. AT SAME TIME AIR LIBERIA PLANNING UNLOAD MOTLEY COLLECTION IN FLEET, INCLUDING TWO DC-3'S, THREE CESSNA 337'S (VARIOUS VINTAGES), A PA-34 AND TWO F-27'S. THEY WILL THEN BE LOOKING FOR A QTE REPLACEMENT FOR THE DC-3'S UNQTE. MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THESE MOVES IS TO STANDARDIZE AND MODERNIZE FLEET, WHILE ADDITNG STOL CAPABILITY FOR OPERATION ON SHORTER AIRSTRIPS. AZTEC CHOSEN BECAUSE ENGINE COMPATIBLE WITH ISLANDERS.

4. AS OF FEBRUARY 1, AIR LIBERIA WILL DISCONTINUE SERVICE TO ABIDJAN FROM SPRIGGS-PAYNE AIRPORT, RETAINING ONLY FREETOWN OPERATION. AT SAME TIME, AIR LIBERIA WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE SPRIGGS-PAYNE/FREETOWN SERVICE. OTHER OPERATORS (GHANA AND NIGERIA) WILL BE REQUIRED TO MOVE OPERATIONS FOR THE FREETOWN RUN TO ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL. THIS SHOULD INCREASE AIR LIBERIA'S LOAD FACTOR TO FREETOWN. ACQUISITION OF THE 737 (OR ANOTHER JET) WOULD MEAN AN EXPANSION OF SERVICE ALONG THE WEST COAST. AT LATER DATE, AIR LIBERIA WILL EXPAND SCHEDULED DOMESTIC SERVICE TO SMALLER STRIPS AND EXERCISE RIGHT PROHIBIT OTHER COMPANIES OPERATING OUT OF FIELDS SERVED BY AIR LIBERIA (BOTH SCHEDULED AND CHARTER). THIS WOULD DEPRIVE AIR TAXI COMPANIES, MONROVIA AIR LINES AND WEASUA, OF PRESENT SPRIGGS-PAYNE OPERATING BASE AS WELL AS RESTRICT THEM FROM USING A NUMBER OF UP-COUNTRY STRIPS.

5. CLEMENS INDICATED GOL REPORTEDLY OFFERED \$3.8 MILLION FOR PRESIDENTIAL G-11 BY QTE EUROPEAN INTERESTS UNQTE WHICH IT TURNED DOWN BECAUSE BUYER UNWILLING PUT ENOUGH MONEY UP FRONT. GOL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONROV 00437 231657Z

REPORTEDLY SEEKING \$4 MILLION IN ORDER MEET OBLIGATIONS (REFS A AND C) AND TURN PROFIT. EMBASSY UNFAMILIAR WITH MARKET FOR FOURTH-HAND JETS, BUT AIRLINE SOURCES HERE SUGGEST MARKET THIS TYPE AIRCRAFT POSSIBLY STRONG ENOUGH ENABLE GOL GET NEAR ASKING PRICE.

6. BOEING REPS CONTACTED EMBASSY DURING LAST WEEK'S VISIT AND PLAN RETURN NEXT WEEK TO MAKE 737 PRESENTATION FINMIN AND

POSSIBLY PRESIDENT. WOULD APPRECIATE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS GIVE
US ADVANCE NOTICE THEIR PLANS IF THEY ACCEPT AIR LIBERIA'S
INVITATION MAKE DC-9 PRESENTATION.

7. MEMCONS THIS SUBJECT FORWARDED STATE AND COMMERCE AND
RCAA AIRGRAM WILL FOLLOW.
MANFULL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, PROCUREMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONROV00437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-0247
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxjk.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MONROVIA 0064, 75 MONROVIA 7110, 75 STATE 6565
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR LIBERIA PLANS FOR NEW AIRCRAFT
TAGS: BTIO, EAIR, LI, AIR LIBERIA
To: COM STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006